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THE INVINCIBLE RED SONJA



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THE INVINCIBLE RED SONIA



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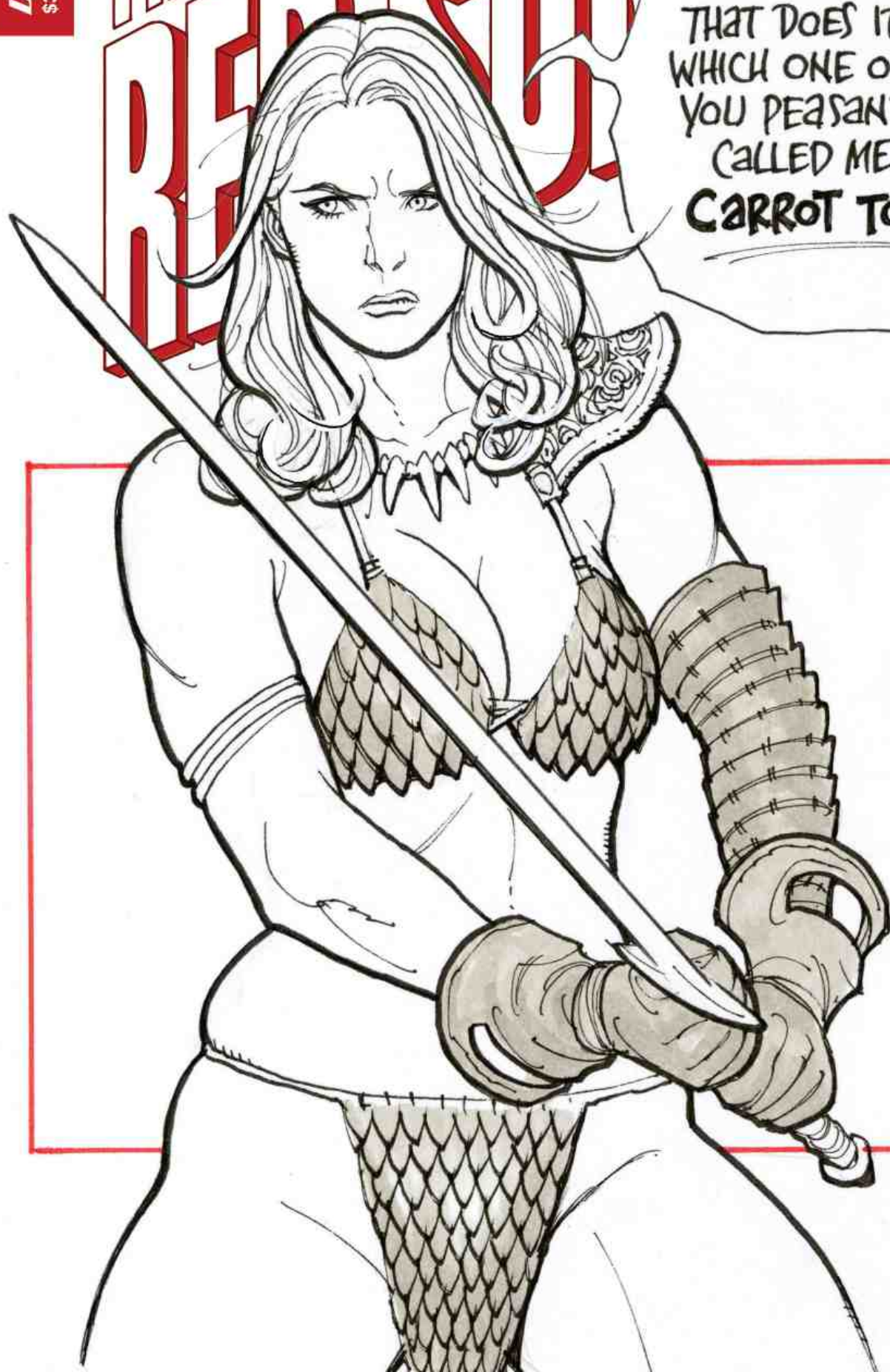
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THE INVINCIBLE

RED SONJA

THAT DOES IT!
WHICH ONE OF
YOU PEASANTS
CALLED ME
CARROT TOP?!!



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A full-page illustration of Red Sonja, a character from Dynamite Entertainment. She is depicted in a desert setting with mountains in the background. She has long, flowing red hair and is wearing a silver chainmail bikini top and a matching skirt. She is holding a sword in her right hand and a severed head in her left hand, which is raised high. She has a determined, shouting expression on her face. The title "THE INVINCIBLE RED SONJA" is written in large, bold, white letters with a red outline, slanted across the bottom of the image. A small registered trademark symbol (®) is visible at the end of the word "SONJA".

THE INVINCIBLE
RED SONJA®



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& JIMMY PALMIOTTI**
WRITERS

MORITAT
ART

SAL MONACO
COLORS

DAVE SHARPE
LETTERS

**SPECIAL THANKS TO
CASEY SILVER**

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SWEET ZARIA, THAT'S THE **FIFTH COFFER** YOU'VE PACKED. EVEN A MATRIMONIAL VOYAGE DOES NOT REQUIRE SUCH QUANTITY OF DRESS.

I NEED COMFORT GARMENTS FOR THE SHIP, VESTURES FOR THE DAY, AND EVENING FINERY FOR THE RECEPTION.

AND OF COURSE, WEDDING REGALIA FOR MY SPECIAL DAY. I DON'T WANT MY PRINCE TO THINK ME A COMMONER.

SHAH!- WORRY NOT ABOUT THAT. **NOTHING** ABOUT YOU IS COMMON, MY LOVE.



AND MY **SLIPPERS!** I'LL NEED ANOTHER CHEST FOR MY SLIPPERS!

GODS HELP ME...



AND--

DEAR DAUGHTER! **NO!**

THE DECKHANDS WILL DO **MORE** THAN SAIL YOU TO ERKHARA IF YOU STRUT ABOUT THE SHIP WEARING SUCH A THING.



YOU **WORRY** TOO MUCH FOR A QUEEN.

A QUEEN **AND** A MOTHER.



I DO **SO** WISH YOU AND FATHER COULD COME WITH ME. I WOULD FEEL SO MUCH BETTER IF...

AS WOULD I, BUT YOUR FATHER AND I MUST SAFEGUARD OUR KINGDOM...

...AND PREPARE A FABULOUS RECEPTION FOR YOU **BOTH** UPON YOUR **RETURN**.

I PROMISE, WE WILL MAKE UP FOR IT A HUNDRED TIMES OVER. NOW FINISH UP HERE. THE SHIP LEAVES PORT SOON, AND YOU HAD BEST BE ON IT.

MOTHER...

...WHAT IF DON'T **LIKE** THIS PRINCE EDERIK?



PART OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO LOOK PAST WHAT IS BEST FOR YOURSELF, AND AT WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR KINGDOM. YOUR UNION WILL **STRENGTHEN** OUR STANCE AND...

YES, I KNOW ALL THAT, BUT WHAT IF HE'S A FOUL, SMELLY WRETCH WHO TAKES PLEASURE IN BEATING ME?

WHAT?!



IF *THAT* IS THE CASE, I WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM *PERSONALLY*, BY *REMOVING* THE HAND THAT STRIKES YOU.

PLUCK THE EYES THAT LOOK AT YOU IN ANY WAY BUT *ADORATION*.

AND LASTLY, RIP OUT THE HEART THAT DARES HAVE ANYTHING BUT *DEVOTION* TO MY BEAUTIFUL LITTLE GIRL.

OH, PAPA, YOU ARE SUCH A *BRUTE!*



YOU ASKED A QUESTION, LITTLE ORCHID, AND I ANSWERED IT WITH *TRUTH*.

I WOULD *NEVER* ALLOW MY BABY TO BE WED TO A BEASTLY LOUT.



THOSE IN THE KNOW SAY NOT ONLY IS THIS PRINCE EDERIK SMART, TRUSTWORTHY, AND A GENTLEMAN, BUT I HEAR IS HE ALSO QUITE *HANDSOME*, AT THAT.

AS HANDSOME AS MY VERY OWN FATHER?

DON'T BE *RIDICULOUS*.



TALIUS... ZARIA...

MY LOVES...

...IT *BREAKS* MY HEART TO HAVE TO SAY THIS, BUT IT IS TIME FOR OUR DAUGHTER TO BEGIN HER JOURNEY.



YOUR MOTHER IS RIGHT. IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO BE *OFF*.

I WILL MISS YOU BOTH *SO MUCH!*

AS WILL *WE*, MY BEAUTIFUL GIRL.



BE *CAREFUL*, MY LOVELY DAUGHTER!

SAFE VOYAGE!



MAMA... PAPA...

...FAREWELL...

IT...IT FEELS AS IF I MAY NEVER *SEE* THEM AGAIN.

YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN *AWAY FROM HOME*, MY PRINCESS, SO I UNDERSTAND HOW THIS MUST BE FOR YOU.

WORRY NOT, YOU WILL BE BACK IN THEIR ARMS IN *NO TIME*. I WILL *SEE* TO THAT.

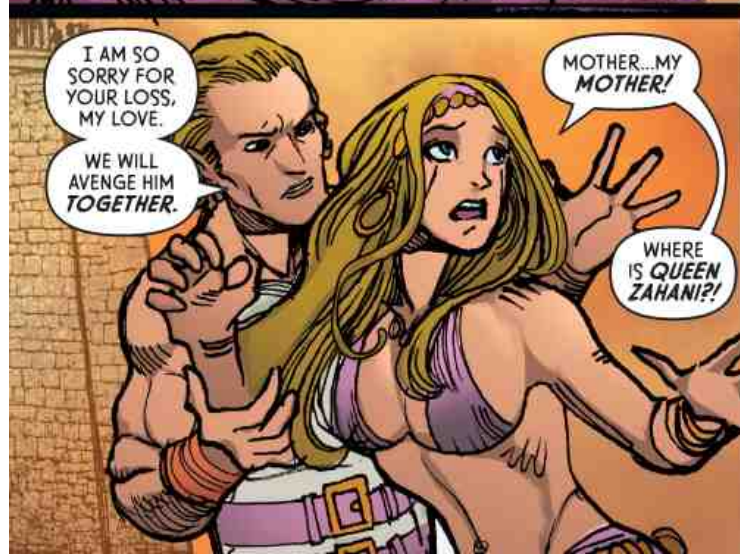
I WOULD STAKE MY *LIFE* ON IT.

TODAY...



PAPA!

NOooooo!





WOMAN...
YOU **SURVIVE** IN THIS
HELL. WHAT NAME DO
YOU GO BY?

I AM **NEENIA**.
HUNTER AND GATHERER
OF MY HOUSE. WIDOW OF
JOHUN THE BLACKSMITH.
MOTHER TO FOUR WHO
ARE NO MORE.

HAD I NOT BEEN
TO THE FOREST'S EDGE
TO ACQUIRE CHARCOAL
FOR THE FORGE, I, TOO,
WOULD BE SLAIN.

I SURVIVE ONLY
IN BODY. MY HEART HAS
DIED WITH MY FAMILY.



BLACKWING
AND HIS HORDES...THEY
KILLED THEM ALL. NO
PRISONERS, SAVE FOR A
HANDFUL OF MAIDENS...
AND ONE HIGH-
BORN.

THE QUEEN
ZAHANI?

BLACKWING
ALWAYS COVETED
HER.



I SAW YOU ARRIVE
WITH THE PRINCESS ZARIA
IN YOUR CARE. DO HER
A KINDNESS. TAKE HER
AWAY FROM THIS
ACCURSED PLACE.

NOTHING BUT
DEATH...OR **WORSE**...
AWAITS SOMEONE
LIKE HER.

LIKE
HER?

A FANCY
GIRL.

AH.



BLACKWING. I HEAR
TALES OF HIM.

HIS LOCUST-LIKE
ARMY IS NIGH A HALF-DAY
AWAY, SOUTHWARD. NO WANT FOR
CONTROL OF THE KINGDOM OR
SETTLING OF THE LAND...JUST
DEATH, PILLAGING, AND
DESTRUCTION.

SO
SENSELESS.

THESE
SOULS...?

MY HUSBAND AND
MY BOYS. THE YOUNGEST
HAD KNOWN ONLY
TWELVE SUMMERS.

BLACKWING
HIMSELF KILLED
HIM. I SAW
FROM AFAR.

WHAT AM
I TO DO
NOW?

SEEMS TO
ME YOUR ONLY
PATH FORWARD IS
VENGEANCE.

THEY SAY AN
EYE FOR AN EYE
ONLY LEADS TO
BLINDNESS.

EVEN **BLIND**,
YOU CAN RELISH
THE FEELING OF
YOUR COLD STEEL
PIERCING HIS
HEART.

A FEW HOURS LATER...

WE BED DOWN
HERE FOR THE NIGHT
AND CONTINUE AT
DAWN.

SONJA...CAN
WE NOT STEAL INTO
BLACKWING'S CAMP
AND TAKE DOWN HIS
PACK OF CURS
UNDER COVER OF
DARKNESS?

ZARIA. YOU
SAW WHAT THEY DID
TO YOUR KINGDOM.
THIS IS NO PACK OF
MANGY SCOUNDRELS.
THIS IS A WELL-
ORGANIZED
LEGION.

OUR GOAL
MUST FIRST BE TO
FREE YOUR MOTHER.
WE HAVE NOT THE
NUMBERS TO DO THIS
BY **FORCE**. WE MUST
DO SO BY **WITS**.

SONJA, YOU
BROUGHT ME
HOME SAFELY AS
PROMISED...

...BUT
MY PROMISE OF
PAYMENT FOR ALL
YOU HAVE DONE IS
NOW GONE--

WHICH IS
NO FAULT OF
YOURS.

THE
GEM ON THIS
SWORD IS ENOUGH
TO KEEP ME **WARM**
FOR MANY WINTERS.
YOUR **PROMISE** CAN
BE FULFILLED WHEN
YOUR **FUTURE**
CHANGES...

...BUT TO
SECURE A FUTURE,
WE **CANNOT** STORM
THAT ARMY AND EXPECT
ANY OUTCOME
BUT **DEATH**.

BLACKWING
HAS A **REPUTATION**
FOR BEING VERY
CLEVER.

...BUT THAT SWINE
AND HIS VERMIN MUTILATED
AND HUNG MY FATHER.
SLAUGHTERED MY PEOPLE.
I CANNOT SIMPLY **WALK AWAY**
AND **FORGET** IT EVER
HAPPENED.

I'VE
NO DOUBT
YOU'LL PERSUADE
HIM TO **RELEASE**
MY MOTHER...

I KNOW
THIS.

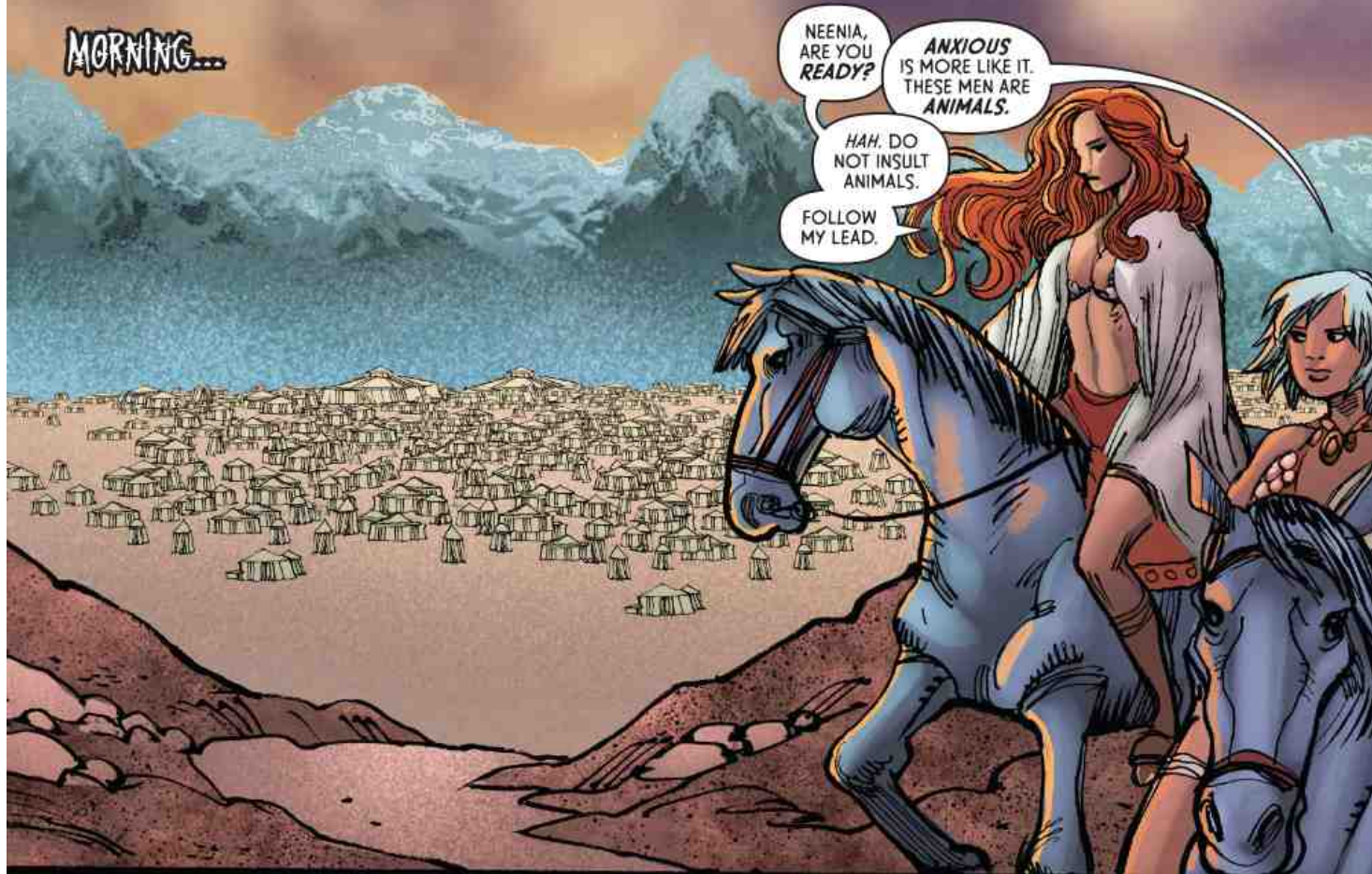
YOU ARE **NOT**
THE SAME YOUNG WOMAN
I FIRST MET WHEN THIS ALL
BEGAN. I ADMIRE YOUR
GROWTH, BUT YOU ARE STILL
NESCIENT IN THE WAYS OF
THIEVES AND MURDERERS
AND THEIR ILK.

DO
YOU **TRUST**
ME?

RIGHT NOW,
MORE THAN
ANYONE IN THIS
WORLD.

THEN I WILL
LAY OUT A PLAN TO
THE OTHERS, WITH
YOUR **BLESSING**.

MORNING....



NEENIA,
ARE YOU
READY?

ANXIOUS
IS MORE LIKE IT.
THESE MEN ARE
ANIMALS.

HAH. DO
NOT INSULT
ANIMALS.

FOLLOW
MY LEAD.



WILL
YOU LOOK
WHAT JUST
RODE IN?

WHO IS
THAT?

WHO
CARES?

GODS
TAKE MY LEGS,
BUT LEAVE
MY EYES AND
HANDS FREE
TO--



HALT!

WHERE
DO YOU THINK
YOU TWO ARE
GOING?

I REQUEST
AN AUDIENCE WITH
BLACKWING.



AND I WOULD
LIKE TO PULL YOU OFF
THAT HORSE AND PLOW
YOU LIKE THE FIELDS
OF TERRAN.

AH. SUCH
CHARM.

TELL BLACKWING
RED SONJA IS HERE.
I OFFER A PRISONER
EXCHANGE FOR THE
QUEEN.



RED
SONJA?

STAY
RIGHT
HERE.

DON'T
MOVE.



DO YOU
SEE THAT TASTY
CUTLET WITH THE
FLAME-HAIR?

AYE, SHE'S A
GODDESS!

WHAT'S SHE
HERE?

SONJA AND
NEENIA HAVE ENTERED
THE CAMP. ALL EYES ARE
UPON THEM.

GOOD.

THE
HOLDING
CAGE IS
AHEAD.

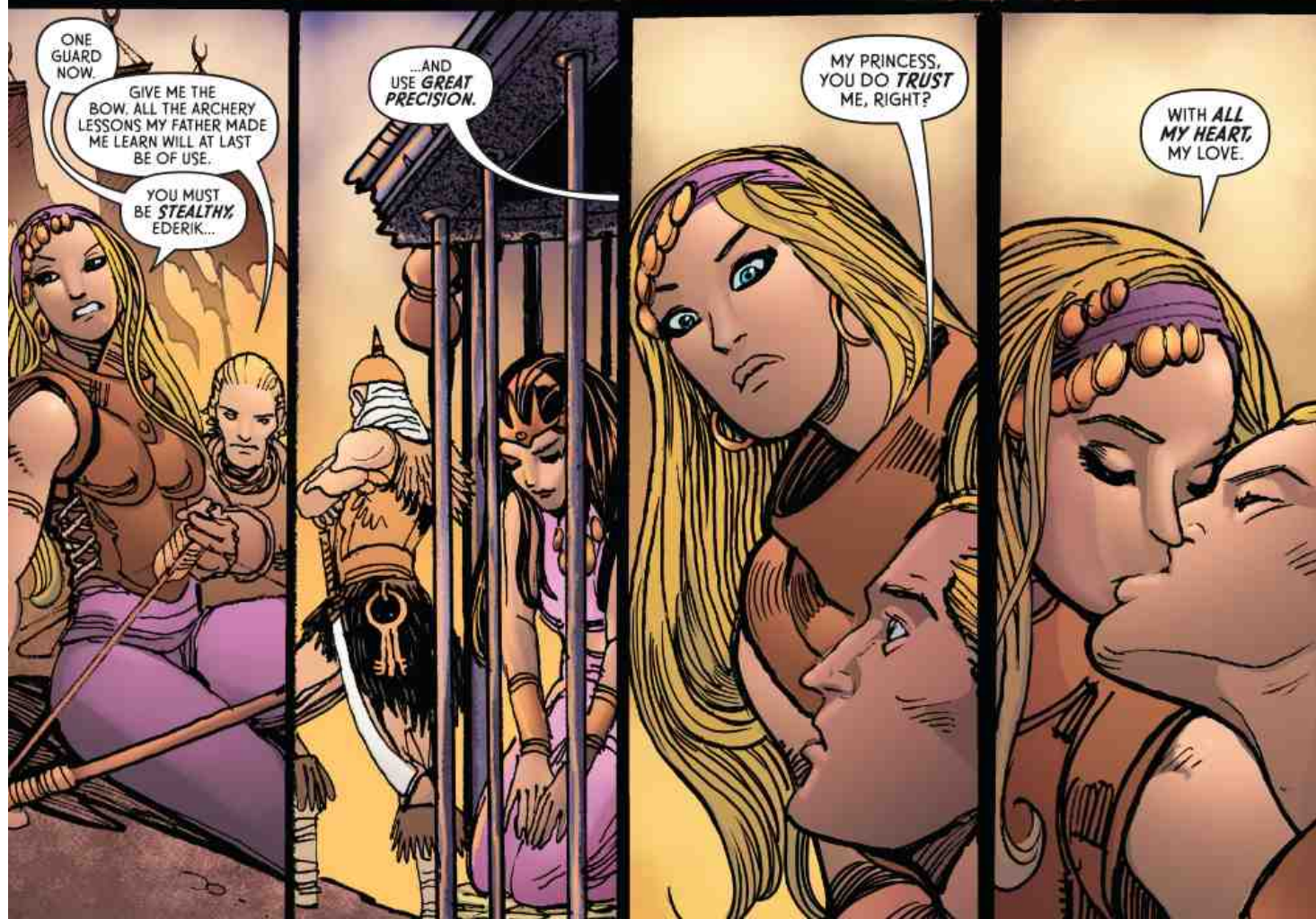


TORK,
YOU STAY AND
GUARD THE
WENCHES. I'LL
GO TO GET A
CLOSER
LOOK.

WHY
SHOULD I
STAY--?

BECAUSE
I **OUTRANK** YOU,
AND I'LL LOP YOUR
CULLIONS IF YOU
DON'T.

MY MOTHER!
I **SEE** HER!



ONE
GUARD
NOW.

GIVE ME THE
BOW. ALL THE ARCHERY
LESSONS MY FATHER MADE
ME LEARN WILL AT LAST
BE OF USE.

YOU MUST
BE **STEALTHY**,
EDERIK...

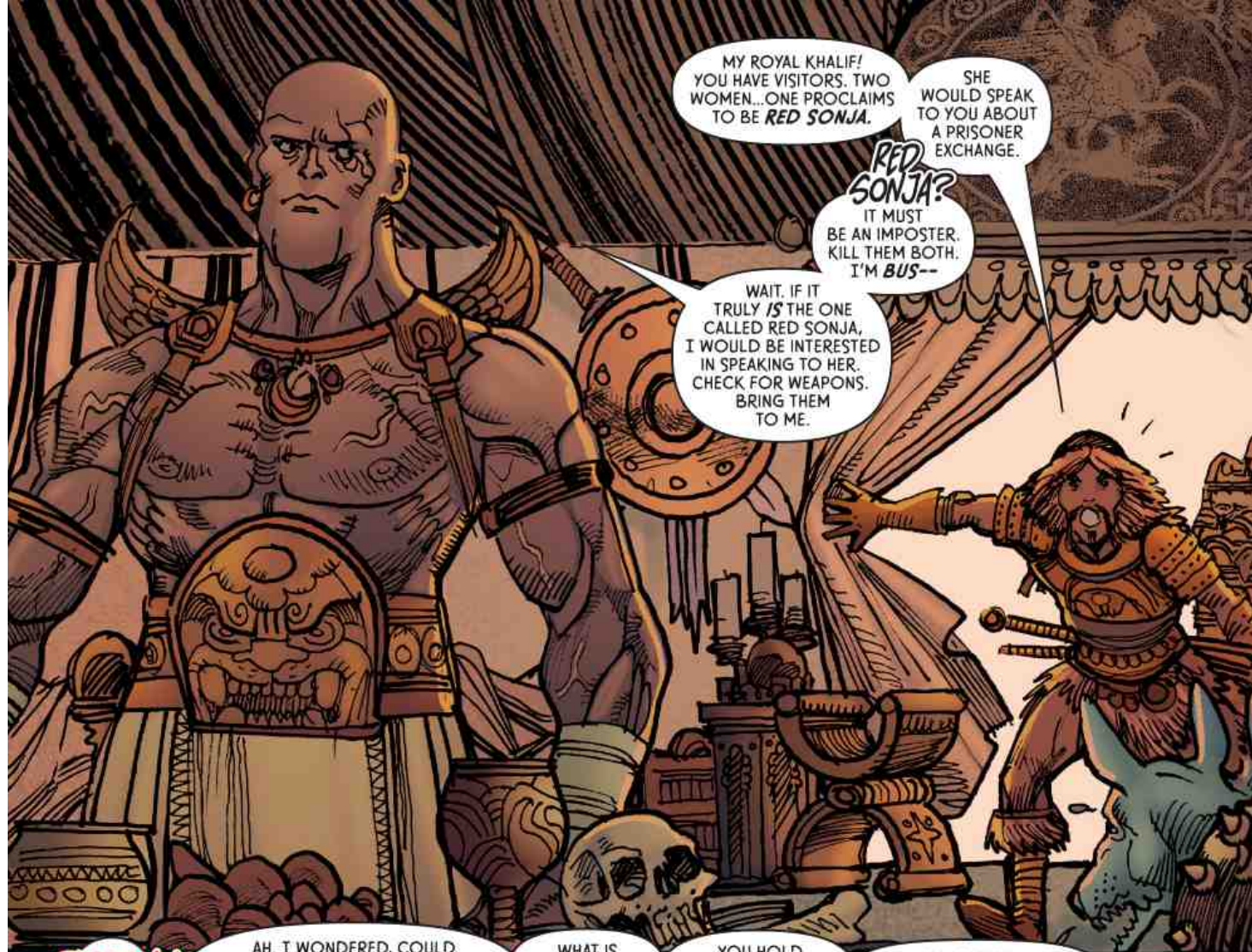
...AND
USE **GREAT**
PRECISION.

MY PRINCESS,
YOU DO **TRUST**
ME, RIGHT?

WITH **ALL**
MY HEART,
MY LOVE.







BLACKWING

AH. I WONDERED, COULD IT BE YOU OR A LOWLY PRETENDER... BUT YOU ARE EXACTLY AS DESCRIBED TO ME MANY A TIME. YOUR REPUTATION AMONG THIEVES IS LEGENDARY.

WHAT IS THIS **EXCHANGE** YOU SEEK?

YOU HOLD **ZAHANI**, QUEEN OF THE KINGDOM OF THE BELANJ VALLEY.

I WOULD ATTAIN HER FREEDOM IN EXCHANGE FOR SOMETHING YOU **DESIRE**.

HAHAHAHAHA!

LOOK ABOUT, FOOLISH WENCH.

I'VE THE TREASURE OF **FOUR KINGDOMS**, A **LEGION OF WARRIORS** AT MY COMMAND, **FOOD** ENOUGH FOR **TWENTY ARMIES**, AND ALL THE **WOMEN** I WANT.





SEE HERE,
BLACKWING!

YOU *NOW* KNOW
THE PAIN OF A THOUSAND
INNOCENTS, WHOSE ONLY
FAULTS WERE TO EXIST IN A
REALM WHERE YOU AND
YOUR HORDE OF SLAVERING
JACKALS TOOK TO

INFEST. I WOULD
JOYOUSLY
SAW THROUGH THE
REST OF YOUR GULLET, BUT
THAT PLEASURE DOES NOT
BELONG TO ME.

GHUU-KKK-KK



JACKAL! I JUST BESTED YOUR KHALIF. THE TENETS OF THE KHALAFI NOW DEEM *ME* YOUR RULER.

IT--IT WAS NOT A FAIR FIGHT.

INDEED. HE HAD A SWORD AND I HAD A SMALL BLADE, YET *I* STILL WON.



HAND NEENIA YOUR SWORD. OBEY ME OR FIGHT ME.

WELL?

I WILL TELL THE MEN OF THEIR NEW LEADER. THERE WILL BE CHALLENGERS.

DO WHAT YOU *MUST*. I'LL BE OUT TO ADDRESS MY NEW SOLDIERS ERE LONG.

THIS IS FOR MY HUSBAND AND MY SONS, YOU MURDEROUS WRETCH.

P-PLEASE... HAVE... ME--



AAHHHG--

...THAT YOU SHOWED MY BOYS.

GHHKKK--

I'LL SHOW YOU THE SAME MERCY...



YOU WERE NOT ENTIRELY *WRONG* ABOUT THE FEELING OF THE COLD STEEL.

VERILY.

SEE IF ZARIA AND EDERIK SUCCEEDED IN FREEING THE QUEEN. IF SO, RETURN TO THE CASTLE.

I MAY BE HERE A WHILE.



EDERIK, I **FEAR** FOR SONJA.

WHAT WAS THIS SONJA'S **PLAN**, OTHER THAN CREATING A DISTRACTION?

SHE TOLD US TO WORRY NOT, AND TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.

SHE DISCLOSED NO DETAILS, BUT...SHE SEEMS TO KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THINGS OF THAT KIND.

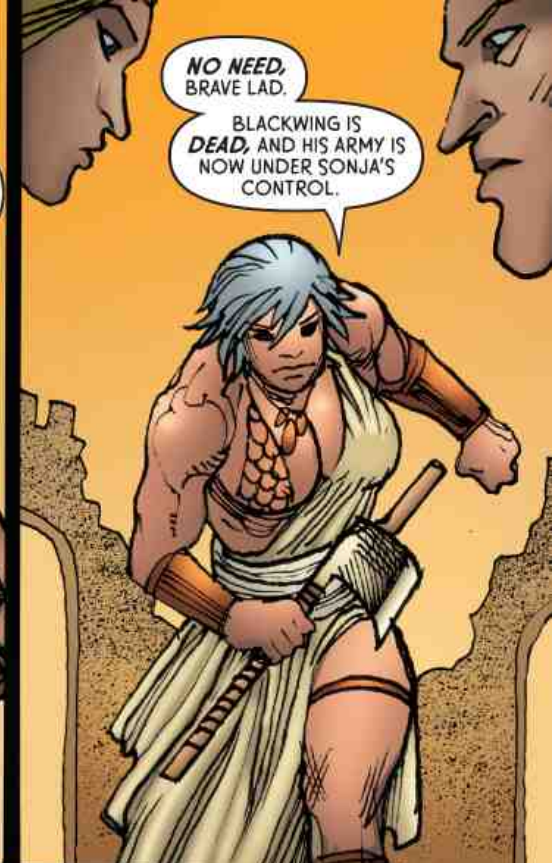
WE SHOULD GO BACK AND **HELP** HER.



AGREED, BUT I WILL GO **ALONE**.

IF YOU DON'T HEAR BACK FROM ME, HEAD NORTHWARD AS FAR AS YOU CAN.

I WILL FIND YOU **BOTH**.



NO NEED, BRAVE LAD.

BLACKWING IS **DEAD**, AND HIS ARMY IS NOW UNDER SONJA'S CONTROL.



HOW IS THAT **POSSIBLE**?

SHE CLAIMED HIS REIGN AFTER DEFEATING HIM. SO FAR, NONE HAVE **OPPOSED** HER.

WELL, THAT I **KNOW** OF. SHE SENT ME TO FIND YOU STRAIGHTAWAY.

I FEAR SHE'LL HAVE SOME **RESISTANCE**.



WHO'S NEXT?

IS THAT
ALL?

NO MORE
CHALLENGERS?

NO.
NO MORE
CHALLENGERS.
THE LAST FEW
RETRACTED.

DOES THIS
MEAN WE ARE
RELEASED OF
BLACKWING'S
THRALL?

THAT WE
ARE FREE TO
RETURN TO
OUR WAYS?

WE'LL NOT
BE DRAWN AND
QUARTERED?

WE'LL NOT
BE BOILED
ALIVE AND
MADE
STEW?

**MOST
ASSUREDLY.** YOU
ARE **FREED** FROM
THE THREAT OF THE
HOT KETTLE.

SWEATY
GUARDSMEN ARE
FAR TOO **GRISTLY**
AND **GAMEY**
FOR ME.

**TWICE FULL IS THE
MOON SINCE
BLACKWING'S END.**

MOST OF THE SOLDIERS WERE PEACEFUL VILLAGERS FROM MANY A KINGDOM... CAPTURED AND FORCED INTO SERVITUDE. THEIR TORMENTORS CHALLENGED MY RULE, AND THUS, TASTED MY BLADE.

THE CAPTIVES WERE GLADLY RID OF THEIR SERVITUDE. THEY JOYFULLY SWORE FEALTY TO QUEEN ZAHANI, AND PLEDGED TO REBUILD HER KINGDOM.

ZARIA INSISTED THAT SHE AND EDERIK NOT WED WHILE THE CITY WAS IN SUCH DISARRAY AND ITS PEOPLE STRAINED TO RETURN ORDER TO THEIR LIVES.

SHE HAS TRULY MATURED.

OR...PERHAPS SHE JUST DEVISED A PLAN TO DELAY MY LEAVE.



FOR HOW LONG DID YOU **LEAD** THE ARMY?

NAUGHT BUT A DAY.

IT WAS HIGH TIME TO **DISBAND** THAT MOB. ANY WHO CHOSE TO GO HOME GOT A DOLE OF THE PILLAGED LOOT AND WERE ON THEIR WAY.

THE REST, MOSTLY MEN WHO'VE LOST FAMILIES, HAVE COMMITTED TO BECOME **BELANJI** CITIZENS.

THE QUEEN WAS VERY **GENEROUS**, CHOOSING NOT TO END THEIR LIVES.

SHE IS **WISE**. SHE SEES THEY ARE NOT **MARAUDERS**, SIMPLY **COMMON FOLK**, SEEKING TO BELONG TO A COMMUNITY.



AND THE KINGDOM SURELY NEEDS TO REPLENISH ITS POPULACE.

NOW...THAT'S **ENOUGH** WITH THE FLOWERS.

AND **CEASE** THIS **COSSETING**. I CAN DRESS **MYSELF**.

BUT PRINCESS ZARIA **INSISTED** I DRESS YOU.



FINE.



PLEASE, M'LADY, HOLD **STILL**. SUCH ADORNMENTS NEED METICULOUS ATTENTION.

THE THINGS I DO FOR OTHERS...

I AM FINALLY TO MARRY **EDERIK**, PRINCE OF ERKHARA. THE MARRIAGE WAS ARRANGED TO BENEFIT **BOTH** OUR EMPIRES... THOUGH THE EMPIRE OF ERKHARA IS NO MORE.

WHAT AN ODD IDEA, TO MARRY ONE FOR **LOVE** RATHER THAN GAINING UNIFICATION WITH OTHER LANDS.

RED SONJA. I MADE AN OFFER TO YOU... YOU AGREED TO IT, AND YOUR LIFE WAS SPARED... AND HANDSOMELY WOULD YOU BE PAID.

HAH...HAD I ONLY KNOWN IN THE **BEGINNING** WHAT I KNOW **NOW**. NO ONE BUT YOU, **SONJA**, WILL DICTATE WHETHER AND WHEN YOUR LIFE WILL BE SPARED.

I SAW HOW YOU TOOK CONTROL OF MY SHIP.

ALL MY MEN YOU FOUGHT SO EFFORTLESSLY.

YOU WERE A WHIRLWIND OF DEATH.

POWERFUL.

GRACEFUL.

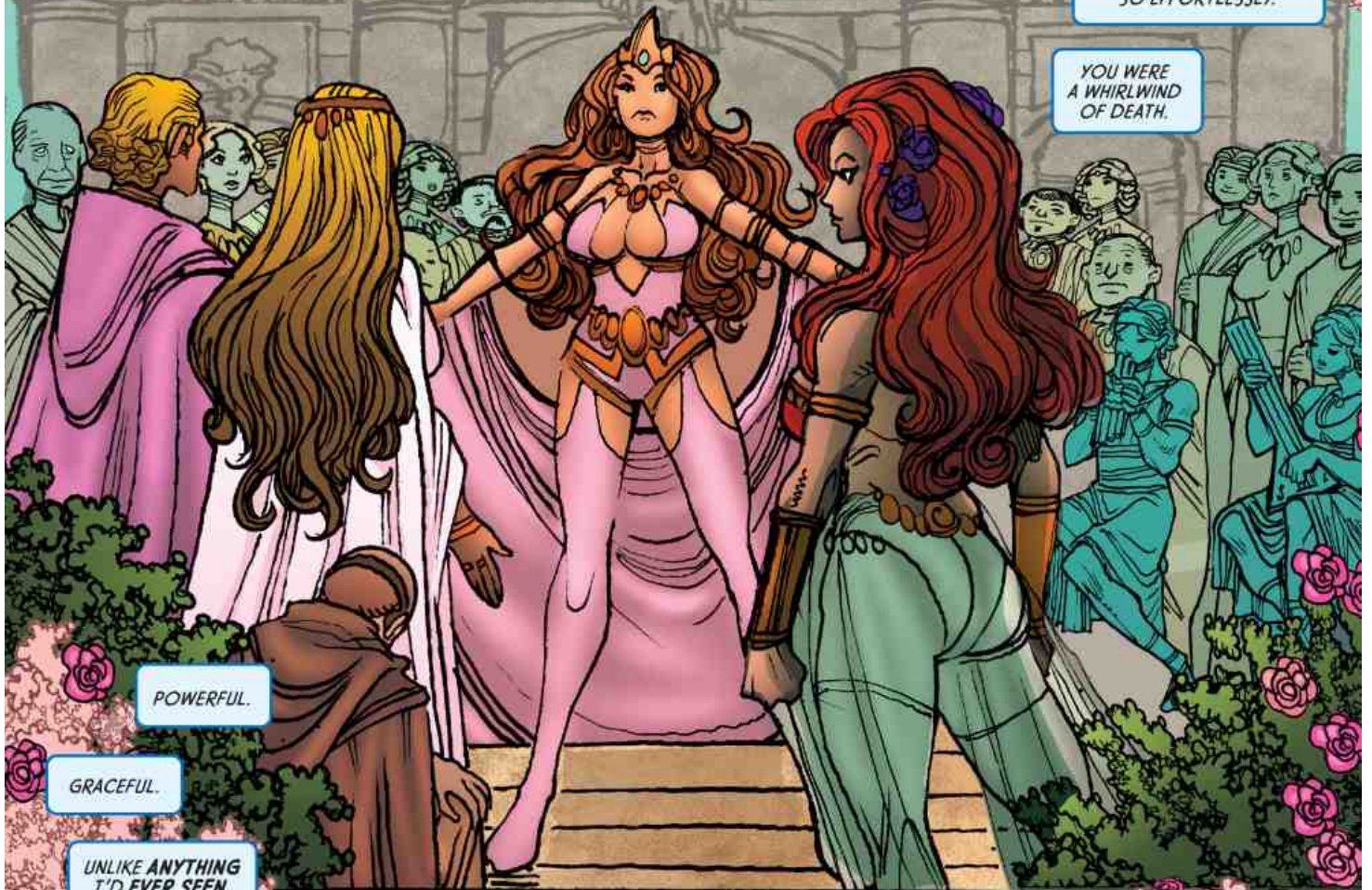
UNLIKE ANYTHING I'D EVER SEEN.

I NEEDED YOU TO STAND BY ME TILL THE WEDDING WAS DONE.

I NEEDED A WILD CARD... SOMEONE WITHOUT PARTISAN ASSOCIATION TO EITHER KINGDOM.

THAT WAS YOU, **RED SONJA**.

LET US BEGIN...





OUR FINEST STEED WILL BE FULLY OUTFITTED AND AWAITING YOU IN THE STABLE AT DAWN. AS WELL, THE REWARD MY DAUGHTER PROMISED, AND **MORE**.

ARE YOU **CERTAIN** I CANNOT CHANGE YOUR MIND?

OF ALL THE LANDS I HAVE SEEN, THIS TRULY SEEMS AS IF IT COULD BE **HOME**. I THANK YOU AND THE PRINCESS FOR MAKING ME FEEL THAT WAY, BUT...

...MY **TRUE HOME** IS A CAMPFIRE BY A DIFFERENT TREE EVERY NIGHT...

...A SHIP, SAILING NEW SEAS, UNDER THE STARS.

MY PURSUITS LIE OUT THERE IN THE WORLD.

WHILE I AM STILL ABLE, I SEEK **DISCOVERY**, AND THE **CHALLENGES** OF NEW LANDS.

I TIRE AND WISH TO GET AN EARLY START. GIVE MY BEST TO THE NEWLYWEDS, BUT...**PLEASE**, YOUR HIGHNESS... NOT A WORD TILL AFTER I'M OFF.

SONJA, YOU DO **REALIZE** HOW UPSET SHE'LL BE TO BE IF SHE DOESN'T GET TO SAY **GOODBYE**?



MORNING.

RELAX,
BIG BOY. YOU
HOP ABOUT LIKE
AN OVERSIZED
RABBIT.

THERE.
THAT'S THE
LAST OF IT.

HELLO...?

SONJA!

?
WHAT
ARE YOU
TWO DOING
HERE?

YOU THINK
I WANTED MY MOTHER
TO HEAR MY WEDDING
NIGHT BLISS?

SO THAT
WASN'T AN INJURED
WOLF HOWLING
ALL NIGHT?

HEH.
GUILTY AS
CHARGED.

WAIT...
WHERE ARE
YOU...

SONJA!
YOU'RE
LEAVING?

IT IS MY
TIME.

YOU WERE
GOING TO GO
WITHOUT SAYING
GOODBYE?

WE TALKED OF
THIS DAY MANY TIMES
OVER THE PAST MONTH.
I THOUGHT IT MUCH
EASIER THIS WAY.

I MEANT
NOT TO
UPSET YOU.

PLEASE,
I MUST
BE OFF.

I CAN NEVER
THANK YOU *ENOUGH*
FOR ALL YOU HAVE
DONE.

I LOVE
YOU, SONJA.
WITH ALL MY
HEART.

I KNOW,
SWEET
PRINCESS.

EDERIK,
TAKE GOOD
CARE OF OUR
PRINCESS.

ZARIA, I KNOW
NOW THAT YOU WILL
SURELY TAKE GOOD
CARE OF YOUR PRINCE,
AS *WELL* AS YOUR
KINGDOM.

WORRY
NOT, SONJA.
WE WILL *BOTH*
MAKE YOU
PROUD.

YOU
NEEDN'T
MAKE THAT
PROMISE...

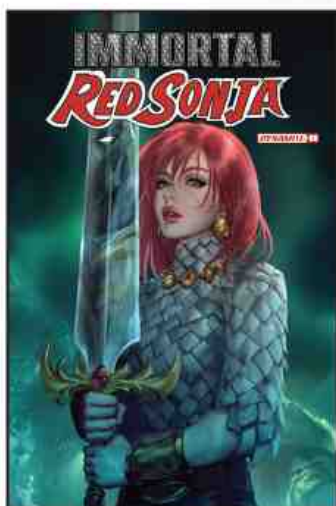
...YOU
ALREADY
HAVE.

THE INVINCIBLE RED SONJA

AMANDA CONNER
& JIMMY PALMIOTTI: WRITERS
MORITAT: ART

END

SAL MONACO: COLORS
DAVE SHARPE: LETTERS
MATT IDELSON: EDITS



DON'T MISS IMMORTAL RED SONJA #6

Sonja...as you have never witnessed!

It is a time of British legend! A young Red Sonja, cursed by mysterious chainmail, seeks counsel with the mysterious MERLIN. She seeks to be rid of her curse, in order to forge a future of fantasy and adventure! She will be pursued by the loathsome GREEN KNIGHT, and if she survives and arrives at the Castle Of Merlin, what she finds would be infinitely more than she bargained for.

As Sonja the Red realizes her destiny. The journey has been long, the dangers grave. But with a fuller understanding of the cursed chainmail on her back, Sonja will strive to finish her quest before the dark forces on her path overwhelm...

SUPERSTAR ARTIST SHANNON MAER MAKES HIS WRITING AND INTERIOR ART DEBUT WITH SIRENS GATE #1!

Shannon, you're known across the industry for your jawdropping painted covers. Not only are fans now getting an entire comic - an entire series - featuring interior art in that same style, but you wrote this story yourself too. What inspired you to take this direction and explore new creative territory? How long has the idea been cooking?

My interest in creative outlets has always been very broad. During art school, I found it surprising that we were required to choose a major. The question posed was, what kind of artist did I want to be? I didn't like the idea of feeling limited, so I have always done my best to explore various artistic outlets when the opportunity was there.

The idea for this story actually dates back many years. During one of my inspired moments, I sat down and began to write a novel. I don't usually start with the question, can I do this—but rather, let's just find out. Surprisingly I did get rather far along in the book, but perhaps I had the recurring notion that this story might flow better from me in the form of a graphic novel.

Painted interior art in comics has a long heralded tradition, and Dynamite has even produced an art book on its history and techniques. Have you been looking to any other painters, or pencilers and inkers in the more traditional side of comics storytelling, to bring your art into this new avenue?

When I sat down to work on this, it was very important that the work flowed naturally from me. I didn't want to place any restrictions on myself, or have any preconceived ideas of how the interiors were supposed to look. This notion became very clear to me when I realized that without thought—I had incorporated the word balloons as a dimensional element within the scene. I believe I had completed the page before realizing that this probably wasn't a usual way to approach them. It just felt very natural to me.

As for the art style, I believe the interiors are a good representation of maintaining the same look as the covers that people have become accustomed to seeing from me. During the earlier stages of my artistic

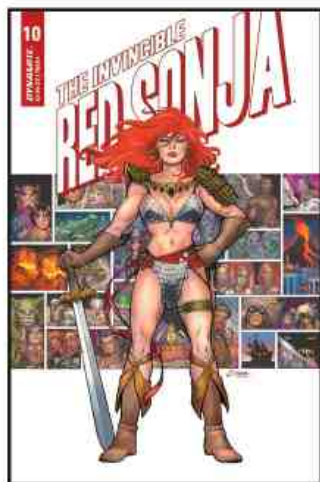
development, it was unquestioningly the great fantasy illustrators that held the most influence on me. I reveled in the freedom of color, as well as the dramatic uses of light and shadow. I imagine this aspect still remains prevalent in my comics work today.

Our main character here is Tara, an aspiring writer who gets the opportunity to meet with an idol and hone her craft. What more can you tell fans about her? And by any chance is her journey somewhat paralleled with the creative path you are taking yourself with this title?

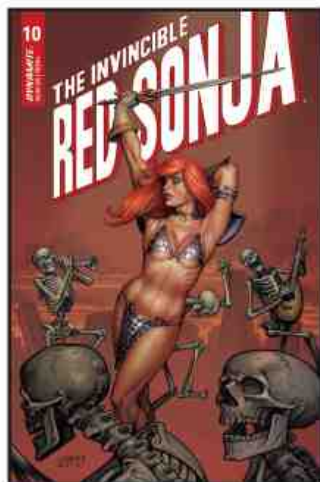
Your question has actually sparked quite a realization for me. Early on, oil painting was my primary medium of choice, and I spent many of those hours daydreaming about what it would be like to have an opportunity to learn directly from the artists I idolized. I knew that Tara's invitation in the story was of the utmost importance to me—but I'm not sure that I entirely traced it back to my personal experience. As for Tara's journey paralleling a similar creative path to mine, I believe I would have to answer I both hope so, and very much hope not—all at the same time. How is that for a cryptic answer?

Fans will have to preorder and pick up the first issue to find out, but we took a peek ahead and noticed the book has some exciting supernatural elements. How would you describe the overall idea of this unique series?

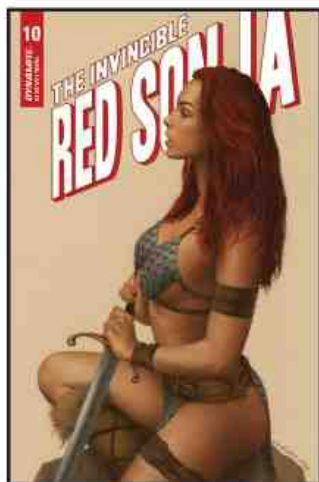
As with the art style, it's also important to me that the feel of the story flows naturally. I didn't want to become restricted by any assumptions about a particular genre, which is why I had a bit of difficulty ultimately classifying it. I am very much looking forward to the path that these characters will embark upon—and I am optimistic that the reader will enjoy quite a few surprises along the way.



Cover A
art by AMANDA CONNER
colors by PAUL MOUNTS



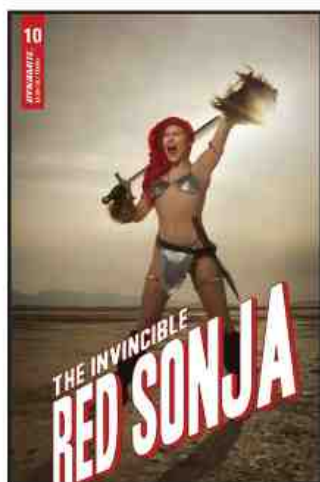
Cover B
art by JOSEPH MICHAEL LINSNER



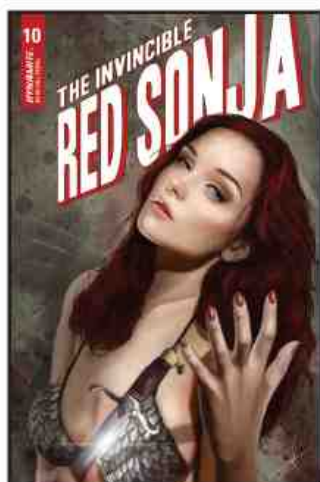
Cover C
art by CELINA



Cover D
art by FRANK CHO



Cover E
cosplay photo
model RACHEL HOLLON
instagram@facesbyrachie
photographer
DAVID TURNER
instagram@dead_shot_photo



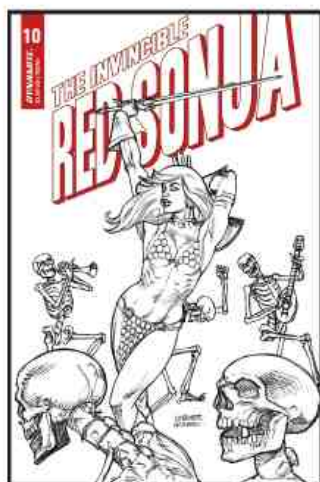
Cover F
10 copy incentive cover
art by CARLA COHEN



Cover G
15 copy incentive cover
line art by AMANDA CONNER



Cover H
20 copy incentive cover
virgin cosplay photo



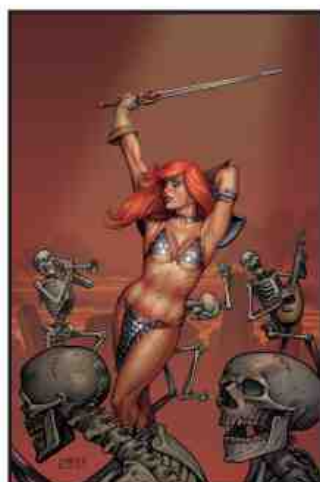
Cover I
25 copy incentive cover
line art by JOSEPH MICHAEL LINSNER



Cover J
30 copy incentive cover
virgin art by CARLA COHEN



Cover K
limited edition cover
virgin art by AMANDA CONNER
color by PAUL MOUNTS



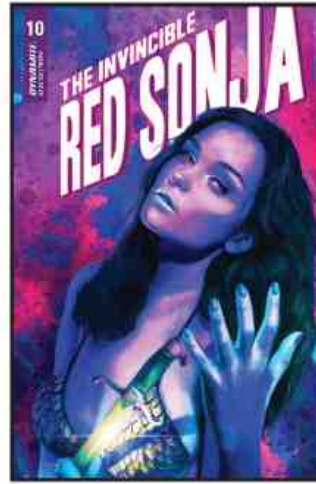
Cover L
limited edition cover
virgin art by JOSEPH MICHAEL LINSNER



Cover M
limited edition cover
virgin art by
CELINA



Cover N
bonus foc
Frank Frazetta homage
art by
MORITAT



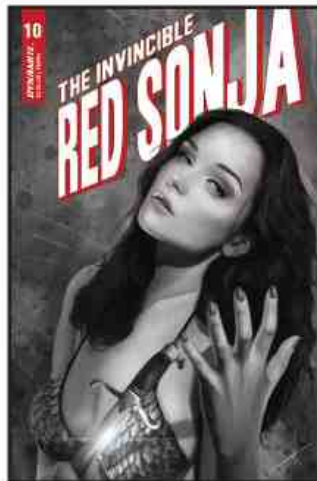
Cover O
bonus foc
Ultraviolet
art by
CARLA COHEN



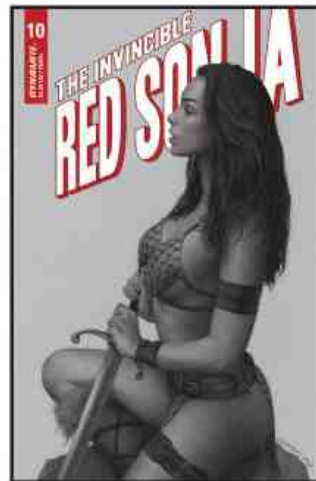
Cover P
7 copy foc incentive cover
virgin art by
MORITAT



Cover Q
7 copy foc incentive cover
virgin art by
FRANK CHO



Cover R
7 copy foc incentive cover
b&w art by
CARLA COHEN



Cover S
10 copy foc incentive cover
b&w art by
CELINA



Cover T
10 copy foc incentive cover
Ultraviolet
virgin art by
CARLA COHEN

